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Northwest Washington Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Soundings

Vol. 26, Issue 6 July 2010

Spreading The Gospel

by The Rev. Mike Guoy Wang and The Rev. Jianhong Rowena Wang

This year Mother's Day was very special for Grace Chinese Lutheran Church of South King County (GCLC of SKC) for the following three reasons.

First, from that day on, the congregation began to worship every week instead of twice a month. Second, on that day in May, a mother and her son, and Pastor Wang's newborn baby Keren, were baptized. Last, but not least, there were 54 people attending the worship, which was the most people we have had so far. Fifty-four people may not seem a lot for some churches, but it is a great deal for us, as we deeply know that the potential driving force of this development is from the Will of the Heaven Father.

In 2006 and 2007, we only had small Saturday gatherings with a few families. At the time, half of the families came from our mother church, Grace Chinese Lutheran Church in Seattle. In 2007, there was a time when we had 44 people attending a baptism ceremony, of which 16 were from the Grace Chinese in Seattle. On June 22, 2008, the day Mike and Rowena Wang were ordained by Bishop Chris Boerger at St. Matthew's in Renton, and became pastors at Grace Chinese Lutheran Church of South King County, more than 70 Chinese came to show their support, of which 30 were from the Grace Chinese in Seattle.

It may be more vivid when using a metaphor to describe

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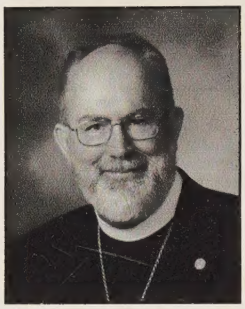
A Word From The Bishop



"But as for you, continue in what youhave learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."
2 Timothy 3:14-15 NRSV

One of the blessings of serving in this call is the view of the whole church that I am privileged to see. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has a rich tradition of being engaged with campus communities in this country. Lutheran Campus ministry has been a part of this church for the past century.

We are fortunate to have two campus ministry sites on the territory of this synod. The Shalom Center at Western Washington University and Covenant House at the University of Washington house the ministry of this church to these campus communities. Both of these centers have built on the work of local congregations in serving our students and in raising up leaders both for the church and the world.

Both of these centers have undergone significant changes in the past few years. We have worked in cooperation with ecumenical partners in the building and maintaining of these buildings. As other denominations have changed their approach to campus ministry they have withdrawn from their ownership of these buildings.

The local Lutheran Campus Ministry boards are working to raise the money needed to buy out the interests of these other denominations. I invite and encourage you to support these efforts. Our agreements with our ownership partners means that we have ten years to buy out our partners at no interest. We still need to raise the principle to accomplish this buyout.

I mentioned at the Synod Assembly my intent to

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A Word From The Bishop

request that the Synod Council designate both sites to be Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities. We have already establish such a community with the Ministry to Chinese Students and Scholars at the University of Washington. This will give voice and vote to both communities at the assembly and will bring both communities into closer relationship with this synod.

I hope that our Synod capital campaign will support these buyouts. Until the feasibility study is complete and the fundraising begins, these two sites will need our support so that they can make their buyout payments in a timely fashion.

The Lutheran movement began in the university setting. We are a faith tradition that values the importance of education and faith. Our campus ministries are a concrete example of how this tradition is still alive today. I want to encourage your support of these campaigns and your communication with our campus pastors about the needs of your students who attend these universities.

Soundings *is published monthly (one combined issue for May/June) by the Northwest Washington Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,*
206-783-9292 or 1-800-244-6997 (Wash. State); Fax: 206-783-9833.
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Deadline for copy of the August 2010 issue of Soundings is Wednesday, June 30. Current and archived issues can be found on the synod's website.

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A Note

From The Members of Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle

It is with great pleasure that the Gethsemane Lutheran Church Mission Endowment Committee (Seattle) has awarded grants for the third year. The fund was established in 2007 from the sale of the Gethsemane church parking lot and other bequests received from planned giving, both from members and friends of Gethsemane.

The Fund Committee had $50,000 made available from the income on invested funds, through the ELCA, to use for grants in 2010.

The following entities were granted funds to carry out witness to the gospel in areas of stewardship, social ministry or evangelism:

- **Church of Mary Magdalene,** Family Outreach Ministry, Seattle
- **Church of Steadfast Love**, Growing Faithfully and Well, Seattle
- **El Camino de Emaus Lutheran Church**, Emerging Ministries, Burlington
- **ELCA, Global Mission Support**, Medical Missionary, Chicago, IL
- **Gethsemane Lutheran Church,** Gethsemane Community Services, Seattle
- **Grace Chinese Lutheran Church**, Ministry to Chinese Students and Scholars, Seattle
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church**, Hygiene Program, Seattle
- **Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary,** "Creating Cross-Cultural Awareness: A Coordinated Strategy," Berkeley, CA
- **Seattle University School of Theology and Ministry,** Gethsemane Lutheran Church Scholarship for Lutherans, Seattle

We pray God's continued blessings upon these ministries.

More News From Gethsemane

In May Gethsemane Lutheran in Seattle announced that it is moving forward with plans for a $20 million construction and renovation project which will break ground in January 2011. This landmark project, located on Gethsemane's downtown campus, will be developed in partnership with Compass Housing Alliance and Mary's Place of the Church of Mary Magdalene. The project includes expanded worship and meeting spaces for the congregation, 50 new affordable housing apartments, and a 10,000 square foot Hope Center which will provide expanded social services to the downtown community.

Gethsemane, the oldest Lutheran congregation in Seattle, has a long-standing commitment to serving the urban needs of the Denny Triangle and Seattle at large, and the church has operated both men's and women's shelters for many years.

Compass Housing Apartments at Gethsemane will be available to individuals and families with incomes below 30 percent, 50 percent and 60 percent of the King County Area Median income. Ten apartments will also be available for people with disabilities, and another ten will be available for individuals who are homeless.

The project also includes the development of the Hope Center. The Center will expand Gethsemane's current social ministries to provide a wider spectrum of community care for Seattle's homeless and disadvantaged. It will include Mary's Place and Gethsemane's Community Services and Soup and Movies programs.

Mary's Place provides a welcoming and safe environment where women and children can build community, enrich their days and find resources to rebuild their lives. Until the Hope Center is complete, Mary's Place will be located in Belltown with an expanded family center.

The project is expected to be completed by Feb. 2012.

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Spreading The Gospel

the relationship between our church and our mother church. Grace Chinese in Seattle is like a tree planted by God. After growing for 10 years, it extended its branches in Renton and Sammamish. This March it sprouted out a new leaf in Federal Way. This is because our congregations and fellowship share the same vision: the more grace people get, the more thanks and the more glory to God. Therefore, we have always proclaimed the same message: "Come and Jesus will give you more grace."

At the baptism of their daughter, Keren, Pastors Mike and Rowena Wang, stand with Kim Unti (far left) and Pastor Kirby Unti, St. Matthew's in Renton.

We believe the future will demonstrate what our dearest Pastor Paul Sai Wai Cheung said, "The train of gospel will not be stopped by the weakness and limitation of people." On the contrary, from the viewpoint of Church History, the trains of gospel led by God's Word continue on, following the rail planned with God's kindness and grace. In the same way, although GCLC of SKC is still small, since July 2006, due to our limited resources, we have only baptized 18 people, but God's Work won't stop. We have developed new ways to spread the gospel. After these four short years, with help from the NW and SW Washington Synods, Federal Way Chinese Fellowship (FWCF) has started Bible study on Friday nights, which began in March.

We believe the past, present and future development and growth of the three Chinese Lutheran Churches

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Spreading The Gospel

and FWCF will rely on the Will of God. In the meantime, we wouldn't have so many great partnerships to work with in spreading gospel if it weren't for the encouragement and leading of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, we give special thanks to NW Washington Synod, (St. Matthew's, Lakeridge, Lord of Life--all in Renton--Sammamish Hills in Sammamish) and SW Washington Synod (Calvary Church in Federal Way).

It is your prayer and financial support that present us with more resources to spread the grace of Jesus Christ. May God bless your congregations! We also hope that there will be more congregations to help us experience more and greater grace from God. Praised be the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Certification Program

Children, Youth & Family Ministry

Trinity Lutheran College in Everett is offering a three-week Certificate Program in Children, Youth & Family Ministry, January 3-21, 2011. The program is designed to equip church staff, volunteers and pastors for effective leadership in congregational children, youth and family ministry.

Students learn from a team of four faculty members in a seminar format, including class discussions, presentations, videos, role plays and more. Topics include biblical and theological foundations, Bible study methods, human lifespan development, creative programming, counseling and relational skills, and program administration. Housing is available.

For more information, visit www.tlc.edu/cyfcenter or contact the Rev. David Ellingson at 425.249.4722 or email david.ellingson@tlc.edu.

LPPO Update

by Matt Keadle
Seminary Intern

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www.lppowa.org.

LPPO Annual Fundraiser

In April LPPO celebrated our 7th Annual Benefit Dinner and Auction. It was a great evening where we honored the 2010 Evergreen Justice Award honorees: University Lutheran in Seattle, United Food and Commercial Workers (Local 21) and the Rev. Jon and Juni Nelson (ret).

2010 Legislative Session Highlights

This past session, LPPO helped to secure the following legislative victories:

- Worked with a broad coalition of partners to secure a revenue package of over $800 million—preventing even deeper cuts to vital social service programs.
- Preserved and expanded funding for General Assistance Unemployable, the assistance program for our state's most vulnerable.
- Protected Basic Health Plan funding after the program experienced significant cuts in 2009.

A more detailed report is available at www.lppowa.org.

Advocating Congregations

This year we have seen a sharp increase in the number of congregations across the state of Washington who are affirming their commitment to advocacy through our Advocating Congregations program. To learn more, visit www.lppowa.org.

LPPO Endorses Initiative 1098

The ELCA and the Lutheran Public Policy Office have a long history of commitment to working to rectify the injustice of our wealthy but inequitable society. The ELCA's Social Statement on Economic Life stresses the importance of correcting regressive tax systems "so that people are taxed progressively in relation to their ability to pay." And at the 2010 Northwest Washington Synod Assembly, a resolution was passed in support of efforts to seek a more just and equitable tax structure in Washington State.

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LPPO Update

Washington has one of the most regressive tax systems in the United States, a system that increasingly shifts payment for state services onto low and middle income families. **Initiative 1098 would address this problem. It would provide dedicated funding for education and health care** by creating an income tax for those with incomes in the top 3% of our state**. It would reduce owner occupied property tax by 20% and repeal the B&O tax for small business.** It would make our tax system more progressive while helping to ensure funding for vital social services.

The Lutheran Public Policy Office is part of a coalition of religious leaders working on collecting the 325,000 signatures necessary to get I-1098 on the ballot. We invite you to join us in this effort. Contact the LPPO office to learn how you can get involved.

Men's Gathering

Lutheran Men in Mission is holding a Men's Gathering with David Delk from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 26, at Bethlehem Lutheran in Marysville. Cost is $15. To register visit www.ourmin.org/events.

David is President of *Man in the Mirror* and author of *No Man Left Behind.* He has great talents for helping people remember vital truths from God's Word. His use of humor, illustrations and unique visual aids help men apply Biblical principles to life. The presentation will include::

- Rejecting a Bobble-Head Gospel: Recovering Biblical Manhood (Matthew 12:43-45)
- Roots: Finding True Strength in a Restless World (Jeremiah 17:5-8)
- Introduction to: *No Man Left Behind,* You will learn how to: create, capture and sustain momentum among men; connect every ministry effort to compelling vision; consistently provide men with a credible next step; maximize current efforts reaching men before creating new ones; and implement a strategy that God can use to change men, marriages, families and communities.

What's On Our Plate?

The Ethics of Eating

Explore the connection between what we eat and how it effects the rest of the world at an event called *What's On Our Plate? The Ethics of Eating.* The event will be held on October 15 and 16 at Trinity Lutheran Church & Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma.

Keynote Speaker is the Rev. Jim McDonald, Managing Director of Bread for the World. A youth track will also be available for high school students. For more information, contact Kristie Neklason at worldhunger@lutheransnw.org. The event is sponsored by Southwestern Washington Synod, Northwest Washington Synod, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Pacific Lutheran University and the ELCA Hunger Appeal.

Lutheran Music Program

Lutheran Music Program, home of the Lutheran Summer Music Program, will partner with Camp Lutherwood in Bellingham this summer, to offer a Choral Camp for youth in grades 5-9 from August 15-20.

Norma Aamodt-Nelson will serve as the conductor for the camp. She currently serves as the Minister of Music at Trinity Lynnwood where she administers a multi-faceted, lay-led music program and serves as primary organist/choirmaster.

This unique camp offers participants an opportunity to build vocal and choral skills, learn music theory and about the foundational composers of the Church while enjoying the camp setting with their counselor and camp friends.

Lutheran Music Program provides high quality staff and musical instruction while the Lutherwood staff provides Bible Study, recreational programming and a meaningful, safe and fun week at camp. A culminating concert is planned for 1 p.m. on Friday, August 20, in the Lutherwood Chapel.

For more information about the Lutheran Music Program visit www.lutheransummermusic.org. To register for the camp visit www.camplutherwood.org.

News From Wheat Ridge Ministries

Major Grant Concept Papers

Deadline Extended: Wheat Ridge Ministries will be accepting Major Grant Concept Papers for the 2010 Fall cycle until July 15, 2010. Awarded grants will be announced by December 1, 2010. (The Major Grants program will not be accepting proposals for the 2011 Spring cycle in December.)

Wheat Ridge Ministries considers major grant requests for new health and wellness ministries sponsored by congregations, agencies and emerging nonprofit organizations. Grant awards range from $5,000 to $50,000 over one to three years. Application materials for the Major Grant Program can be found at www.wheatridge.org.

Sabbatical Grants Available

Wheat Ridge Ministries is offering ministry sabbatical grants to Lutheran congregations. The Ministry Sabbatical Grant Program aims to increase healthy ministry by promoting a sabbatical leave for rest and renewal to support the health of the ministry leader and the congregation.

Any Lutheran congregation developing a ministry sabbatical plan for its pastor(s) within the grant guidelines may apply. Matching grants of up to $7,500 will be awarded to Lutheran congregations and clergy planning their first sabbatical experience.

Grant funds may be invested in the following ways: salary and benefits for additional staff during the sabbatical period; costs related to assistance provided by a sabbatical interim worker; etc.

Congregations interested in applying for the grant can visit www.wheatridge.org to review the requirements. The deadline for grant applications is January 15, 2011. Grant awards will be made in March 2011.

Here 'n There

■ A new GIFT group has formed at **Phinney Ridge in Seattle** for families and individuals touched by a corner of the adoption triangle. Gathered around scripture, fellowship, service and the chosen topic (adoption) they explore the unique experience of adoption from many perspectives. The group is led by Patrick Meagher, Minister of Outreach at Phinney, and an adoptee.

■ The middle school youth from **St. Luke's in Bellevue and Salem in Mount Vernon** will be spending June 27 through July 1 on their bikes exploring the San Juan Islands. They will sleep in tents, play games, grow closer to God through relationship, studying the Bible and enjoying His creation.

■ **Immanuel in Seattle** reaches out to its surrounding community with a food bank, lunch program, shelter, hygiene center and recovery center. In order to support that ministry, **University in Seattle** hosted a benefit concert in May. The concert, called Music Without Borders, featured the world flute master, Gary Stroutsos, and percussionist, David Revelli.

■ Six members from **First Lutheran in Bothell** are taking an 18 day trip in Tanzania this month. The congregation had been invited by Bishop Jacob Mameo and the members are visiting his diocese, Morogoro Diocese.

■ Members at **First Lutheran in Mount Vernon** recently collected more than 500 lbs. of food for the Neighbors in Need Food Bank. The congregation also provides dinner once a month at Friendship House, a shelter for the homeless. And, the money raised at the congregation's Easter Breakfast ($1,493.19) was donated to Reverie BBQ in Mount Vernon. The last five days of every month the restaurant's owners provide a free dinner to the working poor who discover there is

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Here 'n There

month left and they have run out of money.

- Members at F**aith in Lakewood** are participating in the ELCA's *Good Gifts*...the congregation is raising $2,500 in order to dig, drill and install a well for clean water.
- The Sunday School Students at **Bethany on Bainbridge Island** collected more than 80 comfort kits (formerly known as hygiene kits) for Lutheran World Relief.
- **Saint Andrew's in Bellevue** held their annual fundraising dinner and auction to help provide housing for low-income residents living on the east side. More than 400 people attended raising $250,000.
- Eric Shellan, member at **Salem in Mount Vernon,** was recently elected vice-president of the student body at the University of Washington in Seattle.
- Jacob Emery, member of **Fir-Conway in Mount Vernon,** was the recipient of PLU's Provost Merit Scholarship.
- **Holy Spirit in Kirkland** has a *Safe Haven Policy* to guide adults as they interact with minors in all church-related activities. The policy is designed to: educate staff and volunteers about their role in abuse and injury prevention; provide general procedures that reduce the risks of abuse or injury; and implement a method of effective response should and incident occur.
- **Faith in Seattle** participated in the local Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering. The congregation provided 86 quilts, 39 health kits, 14 layettes and 9 school kits.
- Members at **Zion in Kent** also made 227 quilts. Of these, 205 were shipped to LWR and the remainder will be donated locally. Zion also shipped 206 health kits.
- **Lord of Life in Renton** awarded $5,300 in scholarships for the 2010-2011 school year to ten deserving students. Funds come from donations and the Safeway Script program.

Within Our Family

We continue To Hold In Our Prayers:

† **The Rev. John Ericksen** and his wife, Marita

† **The Rev. Paul Wuest**

† **The Rev. Mikkel Hustad,** St. Peter, Clinton

† **Richard Bridges**, former member of Synod Council

† **The Rev. Phil Petrasek (ret.)** and his wife Linda

We Pray For:

† The Synod Office recently heard that **Elsie Hotvedt Thorson** passed away on February 26 in Bellingham. As an artist she contributed to the church through her design and illustrations and was known through her work with Augsburg Fortress Publishing. She moved to Ferndale in 1996, and continued her art to the end of her life. Blessings to her memory.

† **Elsie Shoup, widow of Pastor G. F. Shoup and mother of Pastor Paul Shoup,** passed away on May 2. A service was held in Coldwater Ohio, where the family is from. Cards may be sent to: Pastor Paul Shoup; 1112 Sherington Dr; Camano Island WA 98282. Blessings to her memory.

† **The Rev. Eric Sigmar (ret)** passed away on May 15. He is survived by his wife, Svara, and his brother the Rev. Harald Sigmar (ret). A memorial service was held on May 22 at Messiah Lutheran Church in Auburn. Cards may be sent to: Svara Sigmar; 10627 SE 293rd; Auburn, WA 98092.

† **The Rev. Stone (ret)** underwent successful surgery on May 17, to remove a tumor from his head. Paul is experiencing the return of energy and good spirits he has not had in many months and is grateful for the love and prayers of those he is privileged to know. Cards may be sent to: Paul Stone; 6903 - 32nd Place NE; Lake Forest Park, WA 98155.

† **The Rev. Luther Kroenk (ret)** fell at Tacoma Lutheran Home (TLH) in mid-May and was hospitalized for a time. He has

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Within Our Family

returned to the Health Care Unit at TLH and is improving, physically, though he is continuing to have memory difficulties and prayers have been requested on his behalf. Luther's wife, Charlotte, is still living in their apartment at TLH. Cards may be sent to: Luther Kroenk; Health Care Unit, TLH; 305 N Highlands Parkway; Tacoma, WA 98406.

† **The Rev. Larry Morris,** Holy Spirit, Kirkland, suffered a mild heart attack on May 25. He is now home. Cards may be sent to: Larry Morris; Holy Spirit Lutheran Church; 10021 NE 124th; Kirkland, WA 98034.

Prayers of Celebration:

† For the birth of Keren Wang who was born March 30 to **Pastors Mike and Rowena Wang,** Grace Chinese of South King County. Keren joins older brother Tommy. Cards may be sent to: The Wang Family, Grace Chinese of South King County, 1700 Edmonds Ave NE, Renton, WA 98056.

† The ordinations of **Suzanne J Paulus** at First Lutheran in Mount Vernon on June 19; **Matthew Maas** at Christ Lutheran in St. Paul, Minn. on June 19; and **Coe Hutchison** at Trinity Luther, Lynnwood, on June 22. Congratulations to all!

† The installations of **Tor Berg,** First Lutheran in Bothell on July 11; **Christopher Hogstad** at Light of the Cross in Bothell on July 18; and **Drahomir Oslik** at Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah on July 15.

Prayers:

† At our regular **Tuesday worship and synod staff meeting,** we pray for our pastors, congregations and members. We pray for our leaders. We continue to pray for all those affected by natural disasters, i.e. Chile, Haiti, the flooding and torandoes, and everyone affected by the oil spill off of Louisiana. We pray for all those we name in our hearts. We pray for Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Pakistan, and all countries in turmoil. We pray for peace!

Northwest Washington Synod Transitions

	Location/Event	Effective Date
Calls Accepted		
Tor Berg	First Evangelical, Bothell	6/27/2010
Christophern Hogstad	Light of the Cross, Bothell	6/1/2010
Matthew Maas	Gloria Dei, Lynnwood	7/1/2010
Drahomir Oslik	Shepehrd of the Hills, Issaquah	6/21/2010
Suzanne J Paulus	First, Mount Vernon	6/1/2010
Laurin G Vance	Burlington, Burlington	8/1/2010
Installations		
Tor Berg	First, Bothell	7/11/2011
Christopher Hogstad	Light of the Cross, Bothell	7/18/2010
Matthew Maas	Gloria Dei, Lynnwood	8/29/2010
Drahomir Oslik	Shepherd of the Hills, Issaquah	7/25/2010
Suzanne J Paulus	First, Mount Vernon	6/19/2010
Laurin Vance	Burlington, Burlington	8/8/2010
Ordinations/ Commissionings/ Consecrations		
Coe Hutchison	Christ Lutheran, St. Paul Minn	
Matt Maas	Christ Lutheran, Mount Vernon	
Suzanne J Paulus	First, Mount Vernon	6/19/2010
Resignations		
Joel Ingebritson	Bethlehem, Seattle	5/31/2010
Retirements		
John Clauson	The Hearthstone, Seattle	7/1/2010
Mark Reitan	Trinity, Lynnwood	7/1/2010
Transfers in/out of Synod		
Tor Berg	From E.6/1/2010 WA-Idaho Synod	6/27/2010
Christopher Hogstad	From E. North Dakota Synod	6/1/2010
Megan Hogstad, Associate in Ministry	From E. North Dakota Synod	6/1/2010
Drahomir Oslik	From NE Pennsylvania Synod	6/21/2010

Northwest Washington Synod Mobility

In Call Process	Position	Status	Current, Interim/Supply Pastor
Arlington, Our Saviour	PR	TR	Marillyn Schultz Rothermel, Interim
Bellevue, Saint Andrew's	A/SP	P	Jim McEachran, Pastor
Des Moines, Grace	A/SP	I	John O'Neal, Pastor
Ferndale, Christ	PR	TR	Christen Anderson, Interim
Monroe, Morning Star	PR	TR	Tim Wolbrecht, Interim
Mount Vernon, Fir Conway	PR	TR	Paul D. Anderson, Interim
Mount Vernon, First Evangelical	PR	I	Linda Larson, Interim
Nooksack, Clearbrook	PR	TR	Supply
Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor	PR	I	Karen Hanson, Interim
Point Roberts, Trinity	PR	TR	Supply
Renton, Lord of Life	PR	TR	Phil Reitz, Interim
Seattle, Central	PR	TR	Kathleen Anderson, Interim
Seattle, Faith	PR	I	Red Burchfield, Interim
Seattle, Gethsemane	PR	TR	Maynard Atik, Interim
Seattle, Magnolia	PR	NV	Doug Stensby, Interim
Seattle, St Paul's of Shorewood	PR	TR	Supply
Stanwood, Freeborn	PR	TR	Supply

Mobility Position Key:

PR = Pastor
A = Associate
AIM = Associate in Ministry
DM = Diaconal Minister
A/SP = Associate with Special Emphasis contact Synod Office)

Mobility Status Key:

I = Interviewing
C = Calling
NV = New Vacancy
V = Vacancy
SC = Synod Call
TR = Transition process
P = Profile presented (receiving nominations)
TR/DO = Div for Outreach Transformation Process